

I am Jim Wright. I'm a Richmond resident at 8300 Osgoode Drive, and I'm speaking also as president of the Garden City Conservation Society.

Mayor Brodie and Councillors,

Schedule 1 to the Minutes of the Regular meeting of the Council of the City of Richmond held on Monday, March 23, 2015.

I wish to speak on Items 9 and 10.

Six weeks ago, I was here to commend the City's related actions for conserving the environment and farmland, and it is terrific to see these follow-up steps.

As you know, Item 9 is the Environmental Bill of Rights. Last October, Richmond joined a Montreal borough in leading the country toward the Right to a Healthy Environment in collaboration with David Suzuki. With today's resolution, we can join the City of Victoria in leading our regional local government associations and then together leading British Columbia and Canada in further steps. Fantastic!

Item 10 proposes a similar approach in addressing our grave concerns with Port Metro Vancouver being a law unto itself while placing far less value on ecological conservation and farmland than we do. There must be a lot of other Canadian port cities in the same boat, and together we have a chance. The current step is mainly to send out lots of letters, but I'm pretty sure it's an aspect of a well-planned campaign of united action.

Congratulations to council and the director of Intergovernmental affairs and everyone else who is driving the systematic action and sequential progress of these important and intertwined matters of Port Metro and the Environmental Bill of Rights.